

RECOGNIZING THE REVEREND DR. EUGENE JOHNSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS PASTOR OF MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Reverend Dr. Eugene Johnson on his retirement after 30 years of faithful leadership at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Centreville, Virginia. Mount Olive Baptist Church has served the spiritual needs of those in the Centreville and Northern Virginia communities for nearly 120 years, and Dr. Johnson's leadership has positioned this institution for another century of success.

Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and raised in nearby Oakville. His father was a minister and his mother worked avidly for the good of the community. Dr. Johnson received a Bachelor of Architecture Degree from Southern University, Baton Rouge, in 1970. He earned his Master of Divinity Degree at Howard University in 1989, and in 2006, the Richmond Virginia Seminary conferred on him the prestigious Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree for his exemplary leadership and service.

Before assuming full-time pastoral duties, Dr. Johnson was known as a national expert in design, art, and architecture. He served as the principle Resident Architect with the Federal Highway Administration and was credited as being the first African American in many of the agency's national accomplishments. Dr. Johnson has been recognized for his efforts that resulted in the designation of "All-American Road" to the historic Selma-to-Montgomery March for Voting Rights route. This march, led by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., began on March 21, 1965, with 3,200 marchers. Four days later, on March 25, 1965, 25,000 marchers had joined.

In 1992, Dr. Eugene Johnson assumed the leadership of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Under his guidance, the Church has experienced unprecedented growth in not only the number of members, but also in its activities and influence. Membership has increased nearly ten-fold from 250 members in 1992 to more than 2,000 today, including many young people.

Dr. Johnson inspired his congregation with his timely sermons and his compassion for all people in every aspect of their lives. In the midst of a global pandemic, Dr. Johnson led Mount Olive Baptist Church in continuing the good works of ministering to the hopeless, caring for the sick and shut-in, providing food for the hungry, and speaking up for the voiceless. He truly embodied the congregation's core values of community and service throughout this unprecedented time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson on this momentous occasion, and in commending him for his service to Mount Olive Baptist Church and our community.

CONGRATULATING NATIONAL COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR JEROME SWIATEK, JR.

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Jerome "Jerry" Swiatek, Jr., who teaches at Citrus High School.

Mr. Swiatek, Jr. was recently awarded the National Computer Science Teacher of the Year Award for his work implementing the Project Lead the Way curriculum. He has been a valued member of the team at Citrus County School District for more than 18 years and has taught at Citrus High School for the past 13 years. Mr. Swiatek, Jr. was the first ever computer science teacher at the school's Academy of Computer Science which helps prepare young students for continued learning and career opportunities in the field of STEM. Since 2017, he has grown the program from approximately 40 students to well over 200 students across all four grade levels.

I Thank Jerome Swiatek, Jr. for his service to our community. He is making a profound impact on the lives of those he serves and helping to strengthen our regional workforce by preparing his students with the tools needed for success in high skill/high demand careers. I wish him continued success for many years to come.

MUSLIM-AMERICAN HERITAGE APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the celebration of Muslim-American Heritage Appreciation Month, which the City of Beaverton, Oregon and its communities and community partners across Oregon recognized in March of 2023. I honor the many contributions of the more than 20,000 Muslim Americans in Beaverton and throughout the State of Oregon who have made many valuable contributions to the city and community. The Muslim community in Oregon comprises different races and ethnicities and includes those both in the United States and those who immigrated from all over the world. Muslim-American Heritage Appreciation Month is an opportunity to spread awareness of the many facets of the Muslim Community and to condemn the islamophobia they have faced.

The month of March also includes the holy month of Ramadan on the Islamic lunar calendar, where observing Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset for 30 days starting March 22nd and concluding the evening of April 21st. At the end of this holy time, Muslims celebrate Eid Al-Fitr, one of the most significant holidays of the year.

I celebrate the many community events that were held throughout this month, including cultural night dinners, Ramadan food box distribution, toy drives for refugee foster youth, and Iftar community meals. I also recognize

the many contributions of community organizations that have built this effort. Some include Cool Islam, which offers youth programming, toy drives, and assistance to help children learn about being Muslim; and The Islamic Society of Greater Portland, which works to develop continuing relationships in the greater community and confront the islamophobia that Muslim people living in the United States face too often.

I appreciate the dedication of these organizations and community partners and join with them in honoring the contributions of Muslim Americans in the Beaverton community as we recognize March 2023 as Muslim-American Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR LEONARD JONES' 25 YEARS OF ELECTED SERVICE TO GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Mayor Leonard D. Jones, Jr., who has served as an elected representative of the people of Grandview, Missouri for 25 years. On this historic occasion, let us take a moment to reflect on Mayor Jones' illustrious career, which has come to be defined by dedication and distinction.

Having lived in Grandview, Missouri since 1970, Mayor Jones graduated from Grandview High School before earning his bachelor's degree in computer science at Grambling State University and his Master of Business Administration at Webster University. On top of these academic accomplishments, Mayor Jones has achieved the lifetime Certified Purchasing Manager designation. Mayor Jones and his wife, Michelle, have three daughters, three grandsons, and one great granddaughter.

First elected to the Grandview Board of Alderman in 1998, Mayor Jones served as Alderman Ward 1 for the next sixteen consecutive years, until becoming the city's mayor in 2014—a position he has maintained for nearly a decade. From the moment he took the oath of office, Mayor Jones began restoring trust in local government and public institutions, thereby earning the respect and admiration from residents on both sides of the aisle. Always putting the needs of the community first, Mayor Jones has been a tireless advocate for his constituents for a quarter century, forever focused on improving the lives of all those he serves.

Currently, Mayor Jones serves as a Board Member of the Mid-America Regional Council's Total Transportation Policy Committee, in addition to serving on the Board of Trustees of the Little Blue Valley Sewer District. Moreover, Mayor Jones has served on the Grandview Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the ReDiscover Board of Directors, the Missouri Municipal League Finance Committee, the HENA Executive Committee, the Grandview Assistance Program Board of Directors, and the National League of Cities Service Line Warranty Committee. It goes without saying that Mayor Jones' commitment to public service is sincere and profound, and Grandview is

a better place to call home thanks to his championing of its people.

During his time in executive office, Mayor Jones has overseen significant population growth, the development of countless new housing units, a sharp increase in commercial activity, abundant construction, an uptick in revenue, and a decrease in crime rates throughout the City of Grandview. With a population of over 25,000 people, Grandview is well served by its insightful Mayor and the determination with which he approaches the challenges facing everyday people. From repairing streets and sidewalks, to revitalizing public parks, Mayor Jones has consistently delivered tangible results for the people of Grandview while acting as a faithful steward of the tax dollars to which the City is entrusted.

Beyond his responsibilities as Mayor and a member of several boards of directors, Mayor Jones retired from Sprint/T-Mobile after working in various positions within the company for 34 years. Mayor Jones is the recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award from Metropolitan Community College-Longview and the 2019 Jane Bryan Distinguished Alumni Award. He has served on past and current ad hoc committees with the Little Blue Valley Sewer District Board of Trustees and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8100. Additionally, Mayor Jones served our country in uniform and achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander as a Supply Corps Officer in the U.S. Naval Reserves. Grandview's mayor has never failed to lead by example, and his years of service to his community and our Nation will continue to inspire for generations to come.

On behalf of the 118th Congress, I applaud Mayor Jones for serving the good people of Grandview, Missouri for the last 25 years in elected office. Mayor Jones' outstanding record of public service should serve as an example for people throughout this great country, and I want to wish the Mayor all the best in the years to come.

HONORING BONDURANT-FARRAR HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKET- BALL FOR WINNING THE CLASS 3A BASKETBALL STATE CHAM- PIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bondurant-Farrar Bluejays boys high school basketball team for winning the Class 3A Basketball State Championship beating the Cedar Rapids Xavier Saints.

Bondurant-Farrar Bluejays and Cedar Rapids Xavier Saints put up nothing short of exciting basketball throughout the whole game of the Class 3A State Championship.

The Bluejays had a perfect, undefeated season coming into the final game, with exceptional execution of timely plays and solid free throws to beat the Saints 58 to 55.

This was not without a fight as the Saints led the Bluejays almost the whole game.

In fantastic fashion of what Iowans love to see in a final game, the ball went back and forth till the very last second of it.

This was true championship level basketball by both teams.

Congratulations to Bondurant-Farrar Bluejays high school boys basketball team for a heck of a season and a thrill of a championship game.

Congratulations are in order as well for the coaches, staff, and dedicated parents.

They have made me proud to call Bondurant home.

RECOGNIZING FIRST UNITED BANK

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, today, I celebrate the grand opening of a very impressive building in my hometown of Moore, Oklahoma. First United Bank, which is based in Durant, Oklahoma, has a long history of community service and working with community members to achieve their financial goals while lifting up those around them.

First United Bank has reinforced its commitment to the Moore community with a building that will not only house all its financial partners and services under one roof but will also serve as a community center for Moore and the greater Oklahoma City Metro. In keeping with First United's other locations, there will be free community spaces; lobby items that celebrate and educate on the Bank's four pillars: financial wellbeing, personal growth, health & wellness, and faith; food truck hook-ups; training rooms; and a large space that community members can use to host events free of cost. This is a multi-million-dollar investment in the Moore community.

As a lead up to the actual grand opening, First United Bank hosted several events and activities for the residents of Moore and the surrounding community to participate in. These events included a blood drive, a free shred day, a pastor appreciation luncheon with a renowned author and theologian, and a book fair where each student at a local elementary school received two free books courtesy of the bank. I am grateful for the work of First United Bank and its commitment to help others "Spend Life Wisely," and I celebrate the opening of this incredible building.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISH- MENTS AND LEGACY OF MR. COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR (RET) JAMES A. MCNAIR

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Command Sergeant Major (ret) James A. McNair, devoted husband to Esther G. McNair (deceased); beloved father, grandfather, and great grandfather; decorated veteran; cherished friend and admired mentor, passed away in El Paso, Texas, on March 31, 2023.

James McNair was born the 11th child of James and Mary Magee McNair on their 100 acre family farm in Mt. Olive, MS. He and his siblings would work on the farm before heading off to school each day. At Lincoln High

School, he drove a school bus to help ensure other students got to and from school safely. He graduated from high school early and entered the United States Army. Soon after, while visiting his brother in Tuskegee, AL, James met his love, Esther Greene. They shared a passion for dancing, family, education, and service. They were soon married and journeyed through life together until her passing in 2005.

CSM McNair served in the U.S. Army for 30 years, including serving at Ft. Bliss, TX, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, Alaska, Europe, and Korea. He received many commendations, medals, and awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal and the Legion of Merit. He retired in 1985 and was recognized on the floor of the United States House of Representatives for his distinguished service, saying "His outstanding service to his country will long be remembered by his fellow soldiers and greatly appreciated by his fellow Americans."

After retirement, he and his wife worked in Civil Service for the U.S. Army at Fort Bliss, TX until he retired again in 2004. He subsequently served the Texas Department of the American Legion in many roles, including Texas Department Commander and Trustee. He was an advocate for increased membership, soldier and veteran education, female service members, and veterans' rights. His motto was "Results Count." In appreciation of his community service, the Mayor and City Council of El Paso proclaimed September 20, 2008 "James McNair Day."

He was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, Esther Greene, his son Tyrone Greene McNair, his parents, and his 10 siblings: Costee, Sr. (Johnnie Lee), Mertis C., Johnnie Mae Barnes (Ervin, Sr.), Geneva Bacot, R.P. McNair (Elizabeth), Alfred Earl "Terrell", Sr. (Irma), Zella D. "Dull" Weathersby (Arties), Eugene "Nick" (Laura), Governor "Bone", and Willine Ward (Eugene "Harry").

He is survived by his children, Reverend Dr. Christopher McNair (Lisa), Minneapolis, MN, LTC (ret) James McNair (Corinne), Vilseck, Germany, Mr. Kerry McNair (Wendy) Atlanta, GA, Mrs. Valerie Hill (Edward), Pflugerville, TX, and Mrs. Janise McNair Diggins, Ph.D., (Clarence), Gainesville, FL, two sisters-in-law: Irma McNair, Ocean Springs, MS, and Laura McNair, Collins, MS, his 15 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. James A. McNair was a humble and selfless patriot. It is my privilege to rise in recognition of his life of service and to honor his memory.

HONORING JANE DALLEN HAGEDORN

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of my good friend, Jane Dallen Hagedorn, who passed away on March 14, 2023, in Sacramento, California. Jane was not only a close friend of mine, and someone I knew for many years, but she was a friend to Sacramento—someone who spent her life dedicated to enriching our community. Jane was committed to public service and championed healthcare and the environment.